

# BARSTOW LOG

SUPPORTING MCLB'S VISION FOR THE 21ST CENTURY

Vol. 8, No. 28

Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow, California

July 15, 2004

## Politics

Regulations on how you can be involved along the campaign trail.

Page 2

## Shoes

Running shoes may have a direct effect on physical performance.

Page 4

## Playmornings

MCLB Barstow Playmornings assist developing young children.

Page 5

## Education

Educational opportunities offered for service members aboard MCLB Barstow.

Page 10

**Check out the Marine Corps Web site.**

<http://www.usmc.mil>

## FSD Tech Assist team 'gets the job done'



Photo courtesy of Gunnery Sgt. Richard Celaya

Cpl. Thomas Maxwell and Master Sgt. James Seifert of Fleet Support Division's Tech Assist team install armor plating on the underside of an HMMWV while recently deployed to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

**By Cpl. Andy J. Hurt**  
Barstow Log Editor

Eight Marines from MCLB Barstow's Fleet Support Division Technical Assistance team returned recently from their deployment to Afghanistan.

The Marines, a group of technical experts in their respective specialties, deployed to the middle-eastern country in late May.

Their mission: fasten heavy armor plates to tactical vehicles currently used for battling terrorists in Operation Enduring Freedom.

From corporal to master sergeant, each Marine carried his own weight through country, and each Marine returned safely to MCLB Barstow in June.

The deployment tasked the Marines at a moment's notice, and quick preparation played a vital role in the overall success of the mission. Once the unit found itself on the opposite side of the planet, a massive workload laid itself upon the Marines who were ready and

willing to serve.

The armor plating, a technological concept so new the Marine Corps doesn't even have an acronym for it yet, awaited the team in Kandahar, Afghanistan unassembled and featured no installation instructions.

Nevertheless, the wizards of expedient engineering "snapped-to" and fastened the first set of armor to a HMMWV in about two-and-a-half hours, said Staff Sgt. Willy Hightower, an engineer equipment inspector chief with the Tech Assist team.

The armor plates weigh approximately 475 pounds each. Two of the plates were fastened to the HMMWVs, in the front and rear beneath the engine packs and rear cargo area, said Hightower.

"They were extremely heavy and had to be jacked up and bolted in," he said.

The bolts used were provided with the armor kits, and like the plates, were foreign to the vehicle. Obstacles were conquered each time the Marines twisted a 9/16-inch drill bit into the frame of the vehicles in order to secure the plates, said Hightower.

See **TECH** Page 6

## MCB CWC 714 keeps MK48s in the fight

**By Cpl. Andy J. Hurt**  
Barstow Log Editor

Somewhere on the far side of Earth, a supply convoy is bringing much-needed ammo and weapons to Marines in fighting holes. Nearby, a tank is being winched out of a canal. Rolling down the Saddam Hussein highway, a vehicle is carrying medical supplies to nomadic tribesmen, who under a former regime, couldn't even depend on their leader for such reliability.

At the forefront of all these scenarios is the Marine Corps MK-48 Logistics Vehicle System. Weighing in at over 50,000 pounds (fitted with an MK15 trailer) and an 8x8 drive system, these bulls of maneuver warfare are proving themselves an irreplaceable asset to the Marine Corps in the Global War on Terrorism.

Certainly these vehicles "pull their own weight" on the front lines, but like all warriors,

combat fatigue can take its toll, and from time to time, they find themselves "in the rear" being maintained and repaired.

Maintenance Center Barstow's Cost Work Center 714 is one of very few locations in the world these vehicles can receive specialized care, according to Don Crownover, heavy mobile equipment mechanic supervisor at CWC 714.

Some might even think of it as the "intensive care unit" for the MK48s.

The vehicles arrive in a variety of conditions, from war-torn to over-trained. No matter what their condition when they arrive, Crownover and the civilian Marines at 714 make sure they leave ready to fight again.

The process starts in a lot on the south end of MCB, where the '48s are given a Limited Technical Inspection, condition



Photo by Cpl. Andy J. Hurt

David Vargas, heavy mobile equipment repairman, fine-tunes the frame bolts on an MK 48 "bogey." The frame bolts, along with suspension and hydraulics systems, have to be torqued to exact specifications in order to maintain optimal performance.

See **714** Pages 8, 9



# Dos and Don'ts of DOD personnel political action

By Donna Miles  
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON — With election activity steadily picking up, defense officials remind members of the military and Defense Department civilians that they're subject to rules regulating their involvement in political activities.

Gone are the days when the military posted troops at the polls after the Civil War, an act that Steve Epstein, director of the DOD General Counsel's Standards of Conduct Office, said intimidated many southerners into not voting.

Today, Epstein said two sets of rules help protect the integrity of the political process: a DOD directive for active-duty service members and the Hatch Act for federal civilians. These rules keep the military out of

partisan politics and ensure that the workplace remains politically neutral, he said.

That's not to imply that military members and civilian employees can't participate in politics. Epstein said DOD encourages both groups to register to vote and vote as they choose, and to urge others to vote. Both groups can sign nominating petitions for candidates and express their personal opinions about candidates and issues - but only if they don't do so as representatives of the armed forces. Also, all federal employees can make contributions to political organizations or candidates.

Beyond that, the list of dos and don'ts differs widely, depending on whether the employee is an active-duty service member, a rank-and-file Civil Service employee, a political appointee or member of the career Senior Executive Service, Epstein said.

Of all DOD employees, the men and women in uniform have the most restrictions regarding political activity, he explained. A 1993 revision to the Hatch Act freed most Civil Service employees to engage in political activities outside the workplace that were once forbidden, although many restrictions still apply.

For example, service members as well as government civilians can attend political meetings or rallies. Military members can attend only as spectators and not in uniform. They're not permitted to make public political speeches, serve in any official capacity in partisan groups, or participate in partisan political campaigns or conventions.

On the other hand, civilian employees governed by the Hatch Act may be active in and speak before

See **POLITICS** Page 12

## Spreading the word of love

By Lt. Cmdr. Randel Livingood  
Base Chaplain



In case you haven't noticed, our world seems to be in a state of virtual upheaval.

I almost said chaos, but thought that was too strong a word because there are still places where there is order and some sense of peace and stability.

However, I do not believe that there is any place, where information is readily available, that is not affected by sense of conflict that seems to have become the norm.

It reminds me of a scripture in the writings of Saint Matthew chapter 24 where a discussion about the Temple ensues. Jesus tells his disciples that there will come a time when not one stone will be left standing on another. In other words, that the Temple will be destroyed.

This temple was tantamount to the National Cathedral in Washington D.C. which began construction in 1907 and was completed in 1990.

It would be like someone telling us that there was coming a day when that great edifice would be completely torn down.

This certainly would cause us to ask many questions; the same questions we are asking today. Why is it that it seems our news agencies are filled with almost nothing but reporting war and conflict?

It appears, if you listen carefully, that almost everyone is about to be involved in some kind of conflict or is already involved. Then there are those who simply stand by on the sidelines because they intensely dislike the players on the world stage and do not wish to be involved, hoping the country they dislike will get soundly beaten either politically or physically.

The reading listed above talks about that kind of thing. It says that there will "wars and rumors of wars." It also says that there will an "increase in lawlessness, and that because of that, the love of many will grow cold."

These are startling words, words that conjure images of the kind of hate that we see brewing in the world.

We don't just see it across the seas in

See **CHAPLAIN** Page 12

## Just doing my job ...



Photo by Lance Cpl. Ashley Warden

Bryan Waggener, a mechanics helper at Maintenance Center Barstow, puts anitfreeze into the cooling system of an Light Armored Vehicle. Waggener has been working at MCB for two and a half months and enjoys the fact that there is something different to work on every day.

### Chapel Services

Protestant Sun. 8:30 a.m.

For more information, call 577-6849.

### Religious Events

Morning prayer, Building 15  
ASD 8:30 a.m. Tuesdays.  
Seekers Bible Study, Building 126, Religious Ministries Center 5 p.m. Wednesdays.

Lunch time episcopal mass, Building 128, Blessed Sacrament Chapel 11 a.m. Thursdays.



Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow, California  
Colonel Steven J. Thompson, Commanding Officer

**Public Affairs Staff**  
Public Affairs Officer: Bill Bokholt  
Public Affairs Chief: Master Sgt. John Cordero  
Public Affairs Specialist: Rob L. Jackson  
Editor: Cpl. Andy J. Hurt  
Correspondent: Lance Cpl. Jenna Lassandrello  
Correspondent: Lance Cpl. Ashley Warden  
Correspondent: Pfc. Nich R. Babb  
Public Affairs Support Clerk: Bertie Dailey

The editorial content of this newspaper is prepared, edited and provided by the Public Affairs Office of Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow, California. Mailing address: Commanding Officer (B130), Command Headquarters, Marine Corps Logistics Base, Box 110100, Barstow, CA 92311-5001. The Public Affairs Office is located in Building 15. Phones: (760) 577-6430, 577-6450, 577-6451, FAX 577-6350, DSN prefix 282.

This newspaper is an authorized publication for members of the Department of Defense. Contents of **BARSTOW LOG** are not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. Government, the Department of Defense, or the U.S. Marine Corps. **BARSTOW LOG** is published by Aerotech News, a private firm in no way connected with the U.S. Marine Corps, under exclusive written contract with Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow, California.

The appearance of advertising in this publication, including inserts or supplements, does not constitute endorsement by the U.S. Marine Corps, or Aerotech News, of the products or services advertised. Everything advertised in this publication shall be made available for purchase, use, or patronage without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, marital status, physical handicap, political affiliation, or any other nonmerit factor of the purchaser, user or patron.

**BARSTOW LOG** is distributed every Thursday (or Wednesday preceding a holiday) 50 weeks a year. **BARSTOW LOG** is produced at Aerotech News in Lancaster, Calif. Printed circulation is 3,500.

For information on advertising in **BARSTOW LOG**, contact Paul Kinison of Aerotech News, phone: (661) 945-5634.



# News Briefs

"News Briefs" is designed to disseminate information to the MCLB Barstow community. Submissions should include a point of contact and phone number, and be received by noon Thursdays for the next week's issue. Submit news briefs via e-mail to [editor@barstow.usmc.mil](mailto:editor@barstow.usmc.mil).

## Lunch Menu

Unless otherwise indicated lunch menus for the Family Restaurant, Cactus Cafe and the Lanzer Lounge are the same. Lunch menus are subject to change.

**Today** – Baked potato and salad bar.

**Friday** – Deep fried catfish.

**Monday** – Chicken fried steak.

**Tuesday** – Beef and broccoli in oyster sauce.

**Wednesday** – Breaded pork chops.

Active duty military \$3.25, all others including civilians \$4.75. Lunch entrees include roll/butter, vegetable, coffee, tea or soft drink. Lunch hours: Family Restaurant: 10:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Cactus Cafe: 11 a.m. to noon. Lanzer Lounge: 11:30 a.m. to noon. For more information, call 577-6428.

## Lanzer's Lounge Menu

Weekly specials available at Lanzer's Lounge. Menus subject to change. Today and Friday: Catfish sandwich. Next Week: Tri-tip sandwich.

## Breakfast

Breakfast at the Family Restaurant is from 5:30 to 7:30 a.m. and at the Cactus Cafe from 5:30 to 6:30 a.m. Prices: Active duty military \$1.60, all others \$3.25.

## Family Night Dining

**Tonight** – Mongolian barbecue night! .50 cents per ounce. Pre-sliced beef, turkey and pork, sliced raw vegetables, assorted oils and sauces.

Family Night dinners are served at the Family Restaurant every Thursday from 5 to 7:30 p.m. Prices are the same for military and civilian: \$6 adults, \$4 children (5-11 years).

Children under 5 years dine free.

## Swim Lessons

MCCS is offering swim lessons for children at the Family Pool.

Sign ups will be taken at the Family Pool.

Lessons consist of 10 half-hour classes Mondays through Fridays.

Children ages 6 to 36 months can be enrolled in the Aquababy program, which is held July 12 -

23.

A Tiny Tots program, for children ages 3 to 5 years will be held August 2 - 13.

Classes are also available for beginners, advanced beginners and intermediate swimmers.

The cost is \$20 per child. Family prices are also available: two children for \$35, three for \$55, four for \$70 or five for \$90.

Payment for classes must be made no later than July 30 for the second session.

For more information, call 577-6817/6971.

## New Parent Support

Classes for new and expecting parents from the New Parent Support Program will be holding New Parent Basic Training for parents expecting a child in July, August or September.

Classes are from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. in the Family Assistance Program classroom in Building 129.

The class offers all the information of Fort Irwin Expectant Parent Class, except the hospital tour and anesthesia lecture.

After taking the class, couples will automatically be signed up for the anesthesia/hospital tour at Fort Irwin.

## YAC Open Recreation

Open recreation is scheduled from 5 to 7 p.m., Tuesdays through Fridays for all children.

The Youth Activity Center is also open to all ages from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Saturdays.

Open recreation dues are \$5 per month for one child and \$3 for each additional child in the family.

Special field trips and activities will be scheduled for teens ages 13 through 18 during the summer.

For more information, call 577-6287.

## Fundraiser

The Marine Corps Birthday Ball Committee will be hosting a golf tournament fundraiser 7 a.m. Friday at the Tees 'N' Trees Golf Course.

The following entry fees apply: E1-E5, \$15; E6-E9 & O1-O2, \$17; O3-O6, \$18; Civilian, \$19. In addition, there will be a 7 a.m. basketball tournament at the Base Gym for \$10 per person.

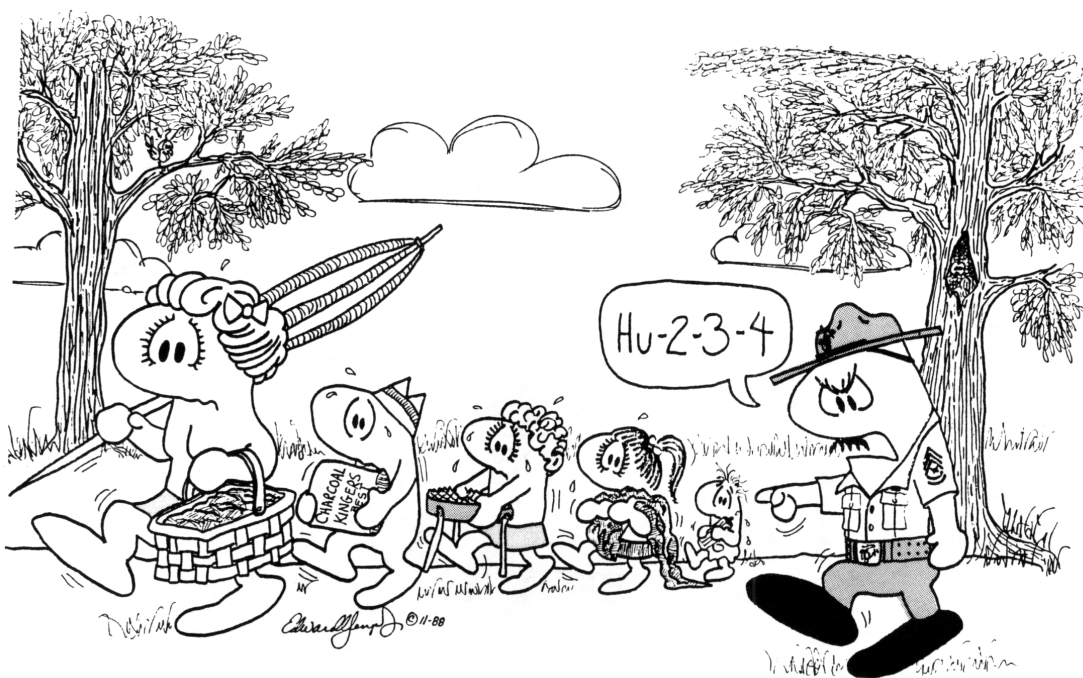
For more information contact Danielle Heinz, HqBn at 577-6370.

## Refresher training

Online refresher and awareness level training is easily and conve-

101 things you should never ask a Marine to do

By E. Temple



Never ask a Marine to go on a picnic.

niently available to you at [www.mclbtraining.com](http://www.mclbtraining.com).

There are 58 online classes available on safety, environmental and general subjects.

Just click on the link and fill in the simple registration form.

Remember your user ID and your chosen password. Go straight to the courses of your choice.

Complete the course, read the Base Policy Statement, fill in the course questionnaire and print your own completion certificate. All from one Web site.

You can access this Web site

from any internet connected PC, 24 hours a day. I

It's a joint effort by Base Environmental, Base Safety and Base Training to provide another easy way to get access to annual refresher and awareness training.

For more information contact Jack Stormo, Environmental Division at 577-6937

## Ramp Closure

The California Department of Transportation closed the north-bound on-ramp at Hodge Road on Interstate 15 for 30 days on

Sunday.

The closure is necessary to continue construction for the mainline freeway-widening project, which is scheduled to be completed winter 2005.

Caltrans appreciates your patience during this construction project.

Keep alert, pay attention and watch out for irresponsible drivers when entering a highway work zone. Please slow for the cone zone.

For more information, call Terri Kasinga, CalTrans liaison at (909) 383-4631.

## Screamin' Single Marines



Photo courtesy of Pfc. Nich R. Babb

(Top row, from left to right) Single Marines Pfc. Nich R. Babb, Lance Cpl. Corey Snyder, and Lance Cpl. Steven E. White, scream while hitting high speeds on "Scream," a roller coaster at Six Flags Magic Mountain during a recent Single Marine Program trip. "It was real cool, and pretty fun," said Snyder, a finance clerk at MCLB Barstow. "This was probably the first really fun thing (the SMP) has done," he added.



# Running shoes directly affect performance

By Pfc. Nich R. Babb  
Combat Correspondent

Whether 4 or 104-years-old, short or tall, big or small or male or female, running is a sport virtually anyone can participate in. What makes running so easy is one only need a pair of shoes and, since science has become so advanced, chances are there is a type of shoe that is made for you.

On June 22, the MCLB Barstow Single Marine Program hosted a trip to the Road Runner Sports Company in San Diego. The trip gave Marines knowledge on the proper shoe for each of them, and tips to improve their run times.

Felix Sablan, the Retail Store Floor Manager at Road Runner, gave a class for the Marines on different foot types, different shoes and the factors used to determine a proper foot - shoe relationship.

“I give the presentation two big-toes up!” said Cpl. Daniel Humble, a separations clerk in the Finance Office here.

When Sablan asked Humble how long he has had his shoes, Humble replied by saying two years. This caused Sablan to nearly go into shock, because people are only

supposed to have a pair of running shoes for about six months, he said. Humble bought a new pair of shoes to replace his old pair, which feels really great, he said.

Without proper shoes or shoes in good condition, people could suffer from lots of pain and injuries caused by improper form, said Sablan. Injuries in turn produce setbacks for the runner, and can hurt the runner in more ways than one.

A pair of shoes break down over time just like any object that gets stomped on hard surfaces, said Sablan. That is why people should get a new pair when they stop giving the proper support or cushion, which is around six months or so depending on the amount of use, he said.

Lance Cpl. Lenard A. Dockter, who works at the Stables for the MCLB Mounted Color Guard, said for people who might have an above average body frame there are shoes containing stronger material, so that they will last just as long and be just as effective as any other shoe.

A runner can analyze many parts of their feet when deciding on a pair of running shoes, said Sablan.

Analysts mainly look at the arch and size of the foot when recom-

mending a shoe, though. Arches generally come in one of three different heights; about five percent of people have high arches, 15 percent are in the flat-foot category and the rest have medium arches. No particular arch is more advantageous than the other, said Sablan, but since the majority of people have medium arches, they are the standard for normal shoes.

Engineers have done studies on the different running styles and the bio-mechanics of people’s running, said Sablan. The results of their studies have been used to educate runners on ways to improve run times.

They have invented machines and instruments that can measure a person’s distribution-of-pressure on each foot, the path each foot takes from heel to toe and other movements while running.

According to the Department of Biological and Agricultural Engineering at North Carolina State University, “Gait analysis is a measurement of a person’s walking pattern by using mechanical instruments and educated medical personnel.”

A Gait analysis is a very effective way to understand the mechanics of



Photo by Pfc. Nich R. Babb

your feet, said Sablan.

Humble wonders why the Marine Corps does not spend more time on making boots more comfortable and in tune with individuals, but he says there are ways for Marines to make boot wear more enjoyable, which

includes custom fitting insoles and high quality boot socks. Also, Humble suggests that people who are having trouble with running go to a class like the one at Road Runner, because it got rid of his shin splints and taught him how to find proper-fitting shoes.

# MCLB molds children's futures with Playmornings



Photo by Pfc. Nich R. Babb  
Six-month old Elishah Dockter, son of Christina and Lance Cpl. Lenard Dockter, explores his surroundings as best as he can in the infant section of the Playmornings room.

**By Pfc. Nich R. Babb**  
Combat Correspondent

Every Wednesday morning at the MCLB Barstow base library, parents bring their children to participate in Playmornings, an interactive playgroup, which is one of five services provided for new parents. It is a time for children and their parents to learn more about each other.

Robin Lindsay, the home visitor for the New Parents Support Group and facilitator of Playmornings, holds a one-and-a-half hour session for parents with children between the ages of infant and 5-years-old in the classroom at the base library each week.

Lindsay is certified in family practice, she said, and has a background in pediatrics.

“The biggest benefit is that moms with small children get to meet other moms with small children,” said Lindsay.

Given this type of venue, parents are given a chance to exchange parenting tips, and let veteran mothers give advice to

rookie mothers, Lindsay said. Parents can also observe other children, and compare their child to children of the same age here.

The many differences in behavior between two 6-month old children can be seen very easily here, she said. Parents can also look at the behavior of a 2-or 3-year-old toddler and somewhat know what to expect when their infant reaches that age, said Lindsay.

In the classroom there are different stations that exercise parts of the childrens’ mind, Lindsay said. There is a picture book and puzzle station for the advanced children who are looking for a challenge, an exercise station, which contains the “orange tunnel” and a slide, and there is a hands-on station, which has paint and other items that children can dig their hands into.

Every session has a snack time to broaden the youngsters experience with food and not just suppress their hunger, said Lindsay. Lindsay tries to bring in food that the children might not

have tried before, such as apricots.

The New Parents Support Group for convenience also provides classes for expectant parents on pre-natal care, Lindsay said. Various parenting classes on specific topics are provided too, which range from disciplining to recognizing a certain problem your child might have.

In addition, the group provides referrals to agencies and organizations located off base that can deal with any problem a family might have.

Parents who want a more hands-on lesson can ask Lindsay to come to their house and personally teach the mother how to breast feed their child or how to potty train their child, she said. This allows Lindsay to focus on the individual child instead of having to teach many children.

Playmornings takes place year-round, and is open to anyone with a child 5-years-old or younger, Lindsay said. Parents can register for the service by calling 577-6332 or picking up a packet at Building 129.



TECH from Page 1

It is sometimes said that practice makes perfect, and the Tech Assist team may be living proof.

Hightower said that once the assembly/fastening process was smoothed out on the HMMWVs and MTVRs, the team could install the system in around 45 minutes per vehicle.

With the process streamlined for the team while seated “in the rear,” operation tempo picked up and “hot” Taliban activity was reported in North Afghanistan at Orazgon, an offensive position manned by Reconnaissance and Air/Naval Gunfire Liaison Company Marines, and from there to where the 22<sup>nd</sup> Marine Expeditionary Unit (SOC) had set up Forward Operating Base Ripley.

“FOB Ripley was good to go,” said

Hightower, “the threat was to the East of us. It wasn’t hot when we got there, but as soon as we left it got hot again.”

The vehicle hardening operation picked up steam, and near the end of the deployment, the team had fastened armor plates on 121 vehicles, said Hightower.

Other Marines lending their knowledge and expertise to the mission from MCLB Barstow include Gunnery Sgt. Richard Celaya, Master Sgt. James Seifert, Gunnery Sgt. James Kurek, Gunnery Sgt. Mark Stoddard, Staff Sgt. Rodney Smith, Sgt. Nathaniel Brown and Cpl. Thomas Maxwell.

Local wildlife and ecology played a memorable role for the Marines as well. Hightower said he spent two days in a hospital after being unwittingly attacked by a Camel Spider, a spiny, yellow, creepy-crawler native to the Middle

“The desert, the mountains, the color, everything looked exactly like Barstow (Calif.),” exclaimed Hightower as he laughed.

East, in his sleep.

He was bitten on the elbow and a web was constructed across his face while asleep. “I woke up and my elbow was swollen and it was like my face was in a cocoon,” said Hightower.

Kurek fell victim to the powdery desert dust and found himself nearly sedated on the amount of anti-histamines he was prescribed to consume.

“The desert, the mountains, the color, everything looked exactly like Barstow (Calif.),” exclaimed Hightower as he laughed.

Spiders, dust and the task at hand, however, paled in comparison to the overall importance and outcome of the mission: life saving.

Unofficial reports have made their way to Hightower, who tells of two rocket-propelled grenades impacting the armor plating with little or no damage to the warriors within.

Hightower said he could not confirm his source.

“When we got there, the Marines had the vehicles filled with sandbags and had flak jackets draped over the sides,” said Hightower, “We started to take them out so we could put the plates in, and they were like, ‘We need those.’ We told them ‘No, not anymore.’”



Left: MCLB Barstow's Tech Assist Team staged at Forward Operating Base Ripley, near Tirin Cot, Afghanistan. Pictured from top row left to bottom right are: Chief Warrant Officer-3 Eric Gilmer, maintenance chief, MCLB Albany, Gunnery Sgt. Mark Stoddard, Staff Sgt. Rodney Smith, Gunnery Sgt. James Kurek, Gunnery Sgt. Richard Celeya, Lt. Col. Ben Braden, commanding officer, MSSG-22, (bottom row, left to right) Master Sgt. James Seifert, Staff Sgt. Willy Hightower, Sgt. Nathaniel Brown, and Cpl. Thomas Maxwell.

Photo courtesy of Gunnery Sgt. Richard Celeya

GOT NEWS?

*If you think you’ve got something newsworthy, call the public affairs office at 577-6430. We’d like to hear it.*





## 714 from Page 1

coded and tested to see what areas are in need of repair, said Crownover.

Since the beginning of Operation Iraqi Freedom, the speed in which the vehicles are, and need to be, repaired has increased dramatically, said Lance Reese, a heavy mobile equipment mechanic at CWC 714. Reese said it is like the vehicles are "On rotation from Kuwait."

After their LTI, the '48s are then stripped down to axles, and the frame is sent off to the steamblast/paint facility for a facelift, said Crownover.

Engine packs, hydraulic systems, cooling systems and every other piece of the '48 are sent off to custom areas of 714 to be inspected and rebuilt, if necessary, he said.

Before the different components of the vehicle are sent off, however, each piece is tagged and logged in order to keep track of the expensive equipment as it makes its journey

down the assembly line, Crownover said.

Once the frame is returned from the paint facility looking fresh and new, retuned suspension systems are fitted, giving the vehicle the endearing term "bogey," he said.

The bogies go through three major stages of rebuild, beginning with the electrical wiring and air systems.

The bogies are then moved down the line to receive state-of-the-art 445 horsepower turbo-powered liquid-cooled Detroit Diesel motors.

The motors are staged with two-speed (with half speeds) HT

740D transmissions, giving the power train dinosaur-like pulling power.

Crownover said in addition to engine packs, stage two of the rebuild process also includes installing the vehicles' precision hydraulics systems.

Stage three of the rebuild takes the vehicle down the line to be fitted with its radiator, fuel tanks and cab, said Crownover.

The thorough process may seem redundant to onlookers, but the battle stress the vehicles endure make a complete rebuild critical, said Crownover.

Along with the three stages of major component replacement, brakes, bearings, hubs, drums, gaskets, cogs, sprockets and tires are all replaced or refurbished, said Crownover.

There are five civilian Marines designated to specifically build and replace small components

that glue the '48s together, said Crownover.

With all the intricacies of the rebuild process, taxpayers may expect a longer turnover process.

Eighty-five days have been allotted for each system, said Crownover. But due to the dedication of his 35 civilian Marines, 40 to 60 days is all CWC 714 needs to get the '48s back in the fight, he said.

Once the vehicle rebuild has been completed, the vehicle needs to be brought up to "specs" and tested, said Crownover.

The vehicles are started, run up to operating temperatures and taken through a series of stress tests applied to the transmission, hydraulics and suspension, said Crownover.

Next, they are hooked up to a trailer, loaded with 22 tons of weights, the maximum load, and taken through the test track, he said.

MCBs Quality Control team, or QC as Crownover calls them, are tasked with the "burden" of laying at least 20 miles on the vehicles before they can be



Photo illustration by Cpl. Andy J. Hurt

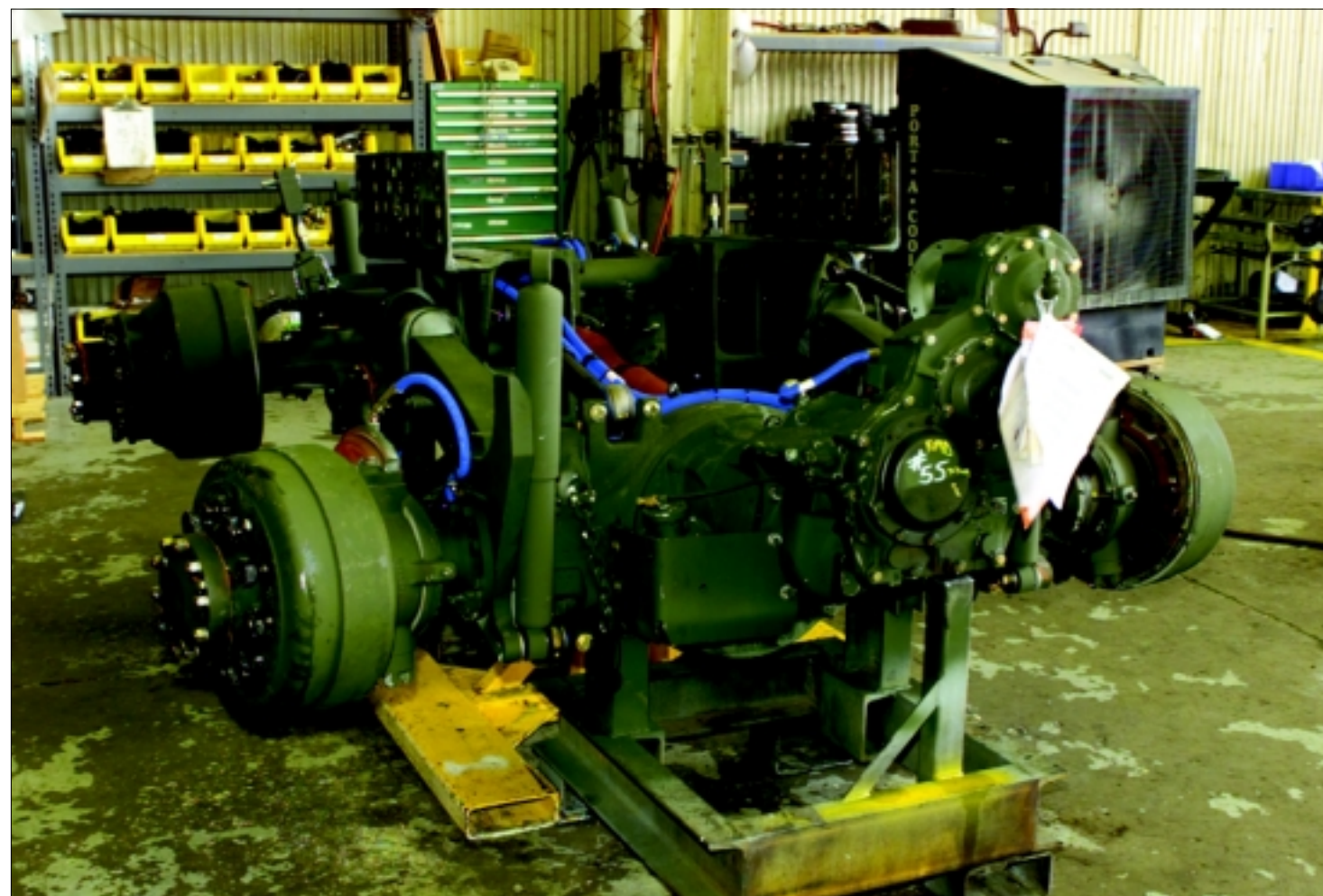


Photo by Cpl. Andy J. Hurt

An MK48 "bogey" rests while brake lines are being installed at Maintenance Center Barstow's Cost Work Center 714. The bogey, a stripped down version of the MK48, has recently returned from getting a facelift at MCB paint facility.



Aaron "Rookie" Tuers, heavy mobile equipment mechanic, is shown installing components to the MK 48 cab during the third stage of the rebuild process, which lasts for about one month.



sent off to Fleet Support Division and either stored, preserved, or deployed, he said.

"These vehicle are from (Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center) Twentynine Palms, (Marine Corps Base) Camp Pendleton or Iraq," said Crownover, "they have very little time to sit around."

Production numbers have increased along with operation tempo over the years as well, said Crownover, adding that in the last two years, the shop turned out 26 and 33 vehicles to the fleet Marine force.

This fiscal year, he said, they are already on number 71.

Other Cost Work Centers in support of 714 are CWC 735, which helps out with weights for the final inspection, and CWC 725, that supports them by maintaining the MK17 trailer system, which goes hand-in-hand with the MK48.

"This shop has really done well," said Crownover of his Civilian Marines, adding,

"These guys are doing wonders."

# 'These vehicles ... have very little time to sit around,' Crownover said.



Photo by Cpl. Andy J. Hurt

Above: Malcolm Sims, a heavy mobile equipment mechanic at Maintenance Center Barstow's Cost Work Center 714, turns a wrench on the frame bolts of an MK48 Logistics Vehicle System. Sims says the shop is doing it's part to support OIF II because "When the units need (MK48s), they're there."

Below:Electrical wiring and hydraulic lines are fitted to an MK48 along the assembly line at MCBs Cost Work Center 714. The hydraulic lines are calibrated to precise specifications after being mounted to ensure proper function and performance.



Photo by Cpl. Andy J. Hurt



Photo by Cpl. Andy J. Hurt

ent mechanic helper at CWC 714, makes adjust-  
e of rebuild. Tuers has been working at CWC 714

# Education opportunities for MCLB personnel

**By Lance Cpl. Ashley Warden**  
**Combat Correspondent**

Through educational opportunities offered from the Marine Corps and the education office of MCLB Barstow, is it possible to gain a college education for virtually free? Today, service members are offered a wide assortment of vocational, college and university “earn while you learn” educational programs by the U.S. Armed Forces.

“Education contributes to a more rounded Marine, prepares them for the transition into the civilian world and makes them more competitive for promotions,” said Francis Villeme, the base education officer. The combination of formal education, military occupational specialty training, job experience, demonstrated responsibility, maturity and teamwork make service members highly competitive job candidates upon completion of their military service, said Villeme. To obtain this objective, the Department of Defense and Headquarters Marine Corps allocate money for certain areas, which service members can use to further their education, said Villeme.

Through Marine Corps Community Services and the Lifelong Learning Program, an educational program that offers opportunities and prepares Marines in their professional lives is provided. Goals like continuing education impact the recruiting, retention and readiness of Marines, enhance the quality of life at work

and home, and contribute to the overall development of a knowledgeable citizen, according to the Lifelong Learning Program’s Web site. The base education office offers a broad range of opportunities for Marines and civilians working on base, from the Military Academic Skills Program to taking exams for college credit. Programs offered support a leadership focus on sustaining the highest levels of performance to encompass all occupations and locations in the Marine Corps, states the Lifelong Learning Program’s Web site.

The more commonly known Marine Corps Tuition Assistance Program encourages personnel to attend off-duty courses offered by regionally accredited colleges and universities. Under provisions of the program, active duty Marines and personnel of other military services attached to Marine Corps units may be authorized to enroll in classes presented at a regionally accredited civilian institution on campus, at resident centers or on military installations, states the Tuition Assistance Program Policy. Through the Tuition Assistance Program, all active duty Marines are eligible for 100 percent coverage of tuition, instructional fees, laboratory fees, computer fees and mandatory course enrollment fees. Courses are not to exceed \$250 per semester

hour and \$4,500 per individual per fiscal year, said Villeme. Funds from the program are authorized for vocational-technical, undergraduate, graduate, independent study and distance learning courses, according to MARADMIN 461/03.

Another program offered through the educational office is the Military Academic Skills Program, which aims at improving the competency of active duty enlisted personnel in such areas as reading, mathematics and communication/writing, states MARADMIN 057/98. Another advantage is that Marines will be better prepared to retake the Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery test and

education benefits for college, technical or vocational courses, correspondence courses, job training or flight school, states www.gibill.com. The program was established to assist service members to further their educational development. The Montgomery G.I. Bill offers over \$35,00 in tuition in return for a three year commitment on active duty. Service members contribute \$100 a month for a year and receive \$985 a month for three years from Veterans Affairs to use toward education. Benefits are good for up to 10 years from release from active duty, according to www.gibill.com. Marines can even receive college credit for military

experience. The American Council on Education evaluates formal military training for civilian post

secondary credit. Recommendations for credit are made to assist educational institutions in awarding appropriate credit for extra-institutional learning while maintaining academic standards. These recommendations are published biannually in a publication commonly referred to as the “ACE Guide,” which describes more than 100,000 military courses offered by the Department of Defense and all branches of the armed forces. Colleges assess credit recommendations and awards credit based on its own credit program. There is no guarantee that credit will be awarded as recommended. Staff noncommissioned officers are not left out of the education benefits offered by the Department of Defense. Selected staff noncommissioned officers are provided the opportunity to complete a baccalaureate degree program in designated academic disciplines, which directly relate to Marine Corps billet requirements by attending a civilian college or university as a full time student through the Staff Noncommissioned Officer Degree Completion Program. Participants will be assigned a primary or additional military occupational specialty corresponding with the participant’s area of study upon completion of the degree requirements. The program is open to staff sergeants through master sergeants who have sufficient college credits to obtain the degree within a maximum time period of 18 months. Information on the SNCODCP can be found in Marine Corps Order 1560.21D, or by contacting the education officer.

“If you want to be number one, you need the leverage,” said Villeme. “Education doesn’t guarantee everything, but it does open doors to opportunities.”The education office has access to 50,000 college courses available for Marines and civilians to enroll in and offers such services as education counseling and planning, a variety of programs and opportunities to take exams. For more information about educational programs, contact Villeme at 577-6118.

**“If you want to be number one, you need the leverage,” said Villeme. “Education doesn’t guarantee everything, but it does open doors to opportunities.”**

begin exploring other alternatives, to include a higher education. Eligibility is limited to enlisted personnel with a general technical (GT) score of 99 or below, who score below 10.2 on the Test for Adult Basic Education, or those who are referred by commanding officers to improve work performance. Marines are automatically enrolled the Montgomery G.I. Bill, if they meet the eligibility criteria unless they elect in writing not to participate. If eligible, the program provides up to 36 months of

secondary credit. Recommendations for credit are made to assist educational institutions in awarding appropriate credit for extra-institutional learning while maintaining academic standards. These recommendations are published biannually in a publication commonly referred to as the “ACE Guide,” which describes more than 100,000 military courses offered by the Department of Defense and all branches of the armed forces. Colleges assess credit recommendations and awards credit based on its





**By Jim Gaines**  
MCCS Publicity

## Happy Face Evening Specials

Mid-Summer Evening Specials at the Super Seven Store feature discounts of 10 to 20 percent off on all sale items with "Happy Face" balloons. Look for these balloons every Monday and Tuesday from 6 to 9 p.m. Enjoy the savings and the fun.

These evening specials on Mondays and Tuesdays evenings will run through this month.

The Super Seven Store & Gas Station hours are: Mondays through Fridays, 6:30 a.m. to 9 p.m., Saturdays, 8 a.m. to 9 p.m., and Sundays, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Credit card sales for gas at the pumps are 24/7.

## Club activities

**At the Oasis Club this week:** Tonight is Happy Hour from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. Tomorrow is TGIFriday

Family Night. Tuesday is Burn Your Own Steak Night, and Wednesday is Movie Night.

**Heads up:** Wednesday is Right Hand Night at the Oasis Club starting at 5 p.m.

**At the Enlisted Club this week:** Monday is darts, pool and TV. Tuesday is Karaoke Night, Wednesday is Midweek Relaxation Hour from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Thursday is darts, pool and TV. Friday is TGIFriday Night. Saturdays and Sundays are Bar and Grill Nights.

For more information, call 577-6418

## Free Movies in the park

Free movies every Wednesday at the Enlisted Club on the patio. Bring your own chairs, blanket and picnic dinner and take in a movie.

Wednesday's movie is "Lord of the Rings - Return of the King." The film is rated PG-13, and the length of the film is three hours, 26 minutes.

Movies begin at dusk. Movies will be shown inside the Enlisted Club in case of inclement weather.

For more information, call 577-6817.

## Get in shape for the summer!

Get in shape and stay in shape this summer — you can do it with Aerobics!

Stephanie Jeffery holds classes every Monday and Wednesday from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. One hour twice a week is all it takes to keep you in top shape. The cost is \$20 per month, or a \$2 per class fee. For more information, call 577-6971.

## Clearance Sale, still time left!

You've seen this write-up before. Everyone is taking advantage of this bargain sale. There's still time left for you, too!

The Wood-Rock Hobby Shop's Clearance Sale has everything at 50 percent off!

Check these out: Stains, varnishes, antiquing kits, steel casters, hinges and much more.

The Rock Hobby Shop's Clearance Sale also has all kinds of things at 50 percent off!

Here's just a sample: clocks, clock motors, buckles, pendants, bolo slides, horse pins and much more.

Call 577-6692 for more information.

## YAC Open recreation

Open recreation will be scheduled from 5 - 7 p.m., Tuesdays through Fridays for all children.

The YAC is also open to all ages from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Saturdays.

Open recreation dues are \$5.00 per month for one child and \$3.00 for each additional child in the family.

Open Recreation will have special field trips and activities scheduled for teens, ages 13-18 during the summer.

For more information, call 577-6287.

## Auto Hobby Shop

Do-it-yourself is great! Save money and time.

Jason, the Auto Hobby Shop manager will be happy to help you with tips, advice and suggestions, as well as instructions.

All the tools and equipment you'll need are right there in the shop.

The Auto Hobby Shop is open Wednesdays through Fridays from 1 to 9 p.m., Saturdays and Sundays, 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.

For more information, give Jason a call at 577-6441.

## Family Picnic & Games



### MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

The Children, Youth and Teen Program will be celebrating National Kids Day on July 31 from noon to 5 p.m. We'll be having a family picnic and family games for all ages.

This event is free to all of our families.

We'll be serving hamburgers, hot dogs, chips, sodas and watermelon. Our games will be Family Feud and other games of skill and chance.

For more information, call 577-6473

## POLITICS from Page 2

political gatherings or serve as officers of political parties or partisan groups.

They also are permitted to manage campaigns, distribute literature, write political articles or serve as a spokesperson for a party or candidate.

Military members generally aren't permitted to campaign for a political office.

Civilian employees are, as long as it's a nonpartisan election.

While the dos and don'ts concerning political activity may

vary, Epstein said the basic rules hold true for all DOD workers. They can't use their position to influence or interfere with an election.

And they can never engage in political activity on the job, in a government vehicle, or while wearing an official uniform.

More details about restrictions on DOD military and civilian employees' political activities are posted on the DOD Web site.

## CHAPLAIN from Page 2

foreign lands, we see it right here where we live.

People have been learning how to dislike one another for a long time and now it seems that they are very good at it.

In fact, they are so good that many no longer have a conscience to tell them their actions are wrong. These individuals who hate without remorse feel less guilt about hating someone than we do when we cheat on our diets. It is a difficult time that we live in and we have a great responsibility to learn how to sift through the actions of a world filled with violence and spread the word about love and grace where we live.

If we are able to do that, then the word begins to spread and people begin to change. It is imperative that our children and we begin to learn that hate is not a "fact of life." Rather we can teach them that love is a fact of life, but we must do that by example. We must be willing to take the steps necessary to imbue our own lives with love so that what flows out of us is a product of what flows in. Love cannot flow out of us if we are people wrapped in hate. It cannot flow out of us if all we listen to is music that refers to hate. We cannot be a source of

love when all that we watch on television is filled with violence of every kind. We have to find ways to have love flow into our lives, to fill those voids now filled with anxiety and stress.

There are many ways to begin this process, but the key is to begin. This week, take the time to evaluate what flows into your life and if you find that you have an abundance of violence and hatred, then take the challenge to change and become a person known for their love and grace instead of their fears.

Peace,  
Fr Randel

# AROUND THE CORPS

## Base patrol deters hostile encounter



Photo by Cpl. Shawn C. Rhodes

With no bridge, Marines from Company G, 2nd Battalion, 2nd Marine Regiment had to cross this steel pipe spanning the canal below. With over 40 pounds of gear on each of them, balance was key to not taking a swim.

**By Cpl. Shawn C. Rhodes**  
1st Marine Division

CAMP MAHMUDIYAH, Iraq - It's 9 a.m. and already peaking 90 degrees outside. Any normal person would be inside sucking up the air conditioning but for a group of Marines with 2nd Battalion, 2nd Marine Regiment, that's not an option.

They have to brave the heat to make sure no one can launch mortars or set up ambushes on their comrades.

The patrols that circle areas outside the base here are known as Zone Zulu patrols. The Marines who walk them every day know them as something else - six hours of dripping sweat.

"We rotate the times squads leave on patrol to always have a presence outside the gate," Sgt. Jonathan D. Calcamuggio, a 26-year-old squad leader with Company G, from Owatonna, Minn. "They only go for so many hours because it wouldn't be feasible to carry all the water we'd need for a longer patrol. On a mounted patrol where we drive everywhere we can go through 200 little bottles of water in a day."

The Marines left the base with a good supply of both water and ammunition. The sights and sounds of the busy highway near the base quickly faded into the quiet of the countryside. They dispersed themselves as they crossed fields and roads, circling around their base.

The group of Marines found a good place to oversee the highway in front of them and remain hidden. The sun was hidden behind a cover of clouds. It just caused weather to be hot and humid.

"This is one of the best days for weather we've seen since we got to Iraq," Calcamuggio said, looking up at the sky. "The only problem is we all look like we took a swim in a river,

as wet as our cammies are."

The squad watched the road until it was time for them to move again. They walked along a canal road toward a large hill where they could overlook the ghetto of Mahmudiyah from where the camp had received mortar attacks. In order to get there they had to tackle the canal and there was no bridge to cross.

A metal pipe stretching from one end of the canal to other was the solution to their problem. It sat 20 feet above the water and was their only access to the other side so they began crossing it. Weighed down by their water, ammunition and protective gear the Marines did everything from stretch their arms out for balance to stopping to take a few breaths to cross it.

"With all the gear these guys have on, they'd sink like a stone if they fell in," Calcamuggio said. "It's a good thing we all made it across."

The squad took the hill by digging their boots into the soft dirt one step at a time, each boot sinking into the earth as the Marine inched higher.

"The thing going through everyone's mind right now is 'I hope they don't get a fix on our position and start dropping mortars on us,'" Calcamuggio said.

The Marines settled in under what shade they could in the middle of the day. The temperature was now past 115 degrees. The heat could take a Marine out the fight as fast as a bullet. The only comfort was the bottled water. They remained unfazed as shots rang out inside the city. Every time they came near the ghetto they could hear rifle fire usually being shot for celebratory reasons.

"We keep an eye out for anything suspicious going on in the city but we're used to them firing weapons inside the ghetto," Calcamuggio explained. "It's just what they do."

After watching the city and the

farms around them for an hour they moved on to their next position inside a date tree grove. Here, the land was wet and muddy, shaded by the trees and fed by the primitive farm irrigation systems. The mud clung to the Marines' boots in thick, heavy clumps, dragging grass with them as they trudged to their position.

The trees offered Marines shade but no relief from the heat.

"Being in this grove just makes the humidity worse," Calcamuggio said. "The wet mud and the heat combine to make it miserable. I think the thing we're all going to do when we get back is just stay in our hooch out of the sun for the rest of the day."

The few people the squad saw during their patrol had mixed reactions to their presence. Some of the children ran right up to the Marines and other were pulled inside by their parents.

"Some of the kids haven't seen Marines enough to be used to them," said Lance Cpl. Andre R. Daigle, a 30-year-old from Orlando, Fla. "It'll get better the more we're out here."

When the patrol was done, the Marines were soaked through with sweat and had an inch of mud on the soles of their boots but they were happy. Hot chow and rest beckoned them home. Their six hours of braving the summer weather in Iraq paid dividends they didn't see, however.

"If we didn't launch these patrols the frequency of indirect fire attacks would increase. Our presence on these patrols deters the bad guys," said Maj. Brian W. Neil, the battalion's operations officer, of Middletown, Conn. "The goal of the Zone Zulu patrols is to disrupt mortar fire positions and it does that. They deter and disrupt." The patrols serve another purpose for the Marines on them, however. "These patrols really make the time go by faster, even though they're tough," said Daigle.



1985 BUICK Century. Call 252-8034 or 252-0613.

1966 PLYMOUTH FURY: 383 engine, auto, air, four door, runs, needs TLC, \$1,200. Call 254-1913

1966 DODGE POLARA: Station Wagon, 383 engine, auto, air, roof rack, runs, needs TLC, \$1,200. Call 254-1913.

1996 CHRYSLER: Eagle Vision-TSi, only 50k miles, V6, AC, AM/FM-CD player, leather interior, dual power seats, and premium wheels, very clean, \$5,300. Call 843-6682.

2002 FORD THINK-ELECTRIC CAR: 2 passenger, stereo system, street legal or turf ready, low mileage, \$2,500 firm. Call 951-7403.

BOAT: 1971 Thunderbird speedboat, 19-foot open bow, fish finder, OMC out drive, Chevy V-8, new prop, battery, water pump. Tilt just tuned, runs great, \$3,200. Call 240—3776 or 254-1913.

MOTORCYCLES: 1986 Honda, 250cc “Rebel,” new black paint, exhaust system, tires, battery and brakes, looks like a small Harley Sportster, looks and rides great, \$1,200. Call 559-8121.

MISCELLANEOUS: Full size half cab “sleeper” camper shell, black fiberglass that will fit short or long bed, window in the rear, open in the front, sits on the truck bed rails, \$200, also full size long bed camper shell, black fiberglass, \$100. Call 559-8121.

MISCELLANEOUS: 2 BRW 5<sup>th</sup> wheel hitches, \$100 each. Call 253-2394

MISCELLANEOUS: Couch w/hide-a-bed, like new, stain free, missing 1 leg, needs TLC, \$100; Coffee table, like new, scratch free, two end tables, clean, dent free, \$70, OBO, all offers considered. Geat deals! Call 252-3131.

MISCELLANEOUS: Oak entertainment center, 2 sections 7ft. x 6ft. can accommodate up to 28” TV, drawer space, DVD/VCR space as wall as stereo space, \$300; beautiful Maple China Hutch, xlt. Cond, must see to appreciate, \$350. Call 843-6682, Victorville area.

MISCELLANEOUS: Entertainment Center, black wood with gold trim, \$75. Call 951-7281.

MISCELLANEOUS: Free Pop-up blocking with new MSN toolbar – get it now. Call 252-1160.

MISCELLANEOUS: Inflatable swimming pool (3’ deep) family size \$20.00. Call 252-1160.

MISCELLANEOUS: Men’s suits, 46 long, excellent condition, \$50 each. Call 252-7198.

MISCELLANEOUS: Dodge, com-

plete 318 engine \$350; Jeep, 360 engine \$350: Volkswagen, 4 old style mag rims \$55; Chevy aluminum two quad manifold \$110; 4x4 brush/grille guard, \$125; misc. Honda car parts. Call 254-1913.

MISCELLANEOUS: 150 to 200 ft. of fence, must sell, moving, only 1 year old, \$250, OBO. Call to see 252-2019 or 578-4490, ask for SSgt. Dorado or Corinne.

MISCELLANEOUS: Small utility trailer, \$200. Call 252-7198.

MISCELLANEOUS: Dog igloo for medium dogs, like new \$50. Call 267-0255, Lv msg.







